

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER XI Sonship Gift 3 – Without Blame C

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4

In Ephesians 1:4 we are told, *“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...”* *“Without blame”* is **am-o-mos** which means ‘To be a perfect sacrifice.’ In the Old Testament **am-o-mos** was a sacrifice that was inspected for weeks to be sure it was perfect and pure in every way before being presented to the Lord. This Old Testament sacrifice was pointing to the coming of Jesus, God’s perfect, spotless Sacrificial Lamb. Because of Christ’s completed work on our behalf we become blameless before God. And when we sow blamelessness in our treatment of others, they have the opportunity to grow into confidence before God as well. Standing on a foundation of blamelessness and sowing it into the lives of others enables us to germinate the weightier seeds of Scripture and participate in birthing God’s ordained end-time anointing. Being established in our blamelessness is a real key for our maturity, subsequent fulfillment of our personal destiny and all God has for the corporate church. This Sonship Gift is so valuable that it deserves extra consideration and study to make sure it is operational in our lives.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-33

The second appearance of **am-o-mas** in the New Testament is in Ephesians 5:25-27. Here we are told, *“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and am-o-mas/without blemish.”* As we start to sow blamelessness in others, they begin to bring forth fruit which is essential in developing the end-time anointing. Verses 32-33 say, *“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”* The Greek word for *“respects”* is **fob-eh-o**, which means, ‘The terror of the Lord that causes a person to flee evil.’ Speaking concerning Christ and the church, blamelessness is the soil that grows the fear of the Lord. Sowing blamelessness is an important key to maturing a believer into being a conduit that carries the fear of the Lord. What an amazing process! If we will treat each other the way that Christ treats us, we will begin to mature in the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. I trust that we will sign up because it is the path to winding up the age.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture: Exodus 9:17-23

In Exodus 9:17-23 we are told, *“As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.’* He who feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. he who did not regard the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field. Then the Lord said to Moses, *‘Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field,*

throughout the land of Egypt.’ And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt.” It is worth noting that among the population of Egypt there were a group of people who feared the Lord. The miraculous power of the signs and wonders brought a reverence and awe that resulted in certain Egyptians fearing and believing in God. After seeing and believing, they took Moses’ next prophetic declaration of judgment of a severe hailstorm seriously. They brought their livestock and servants under cover for protection and they were saved. But Pharaoh lost all his livestock and the servants who tended them because he disregarded God’s Word through Moses. In Goshen, the region where the Israelites resided, there was no hail. With the judgment of the flies, God began to make a distinction between Egypt and Israel. This should be an eye-opener as to the difference of what the reverential fear of the Lord or lack thereof will produce.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture: Exodus 9:25-30

in Exodus 9:25-30 we read, *“And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, ‘I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the Lord, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer.’ So Moses said to him, ‘As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the Lord’s. But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the Lord God.”* In this passage Pharaoh repented. He finally began to recognize that God was bigger than he. He even stated, *“The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.”* Moses prayed and the hail stopped. Then Moses made this statement in verse 30. *“But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the Lord God.”* What a statement! Moses is in effect saying, ‘God just killed servants and livestock due to your disobedience. You could have saved them but you didn’t and still I know that you will not fear the Word of the Lord. The judgments from God’s Hand were not yet complete because Pharaoh would not fear.’ The Hebrew word here is **yaw-rey** and this is ‘The promised, coveted end-time anointing that will catapult people in the Kingdom.’ There are several synonyms for the fear of God and they make up the fullness of what we know the Lord will potentially do in our lives in the last days as we participate in the harvesting of the nations. **Yaw-rey** is the all-inclusive word that God covenants to do for us in the last days. And all these judgments described in Exodus are, in part, written for our instruction and preparation!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:5

In Deuteronomy 5:5 Moses reminded Israel of how he stood before them on the day that the Lord thundered the Ten Commandments. He brought to their remembrance that they saw the fire, felt the shaking and experienced the fear of God. We begin to see that there are five different categories, or degrees of responses, to the fear of God that sowing blamelessness will bring forth. The first is the emotion of fear, the second is the anticipation of evil and the third is reverence for God Who inspires all this. The fourth is righteous behavior to harmonize with God and the fifth is formal religious worship that is the result of walking in this fear. Deuteronomy 5:5 and the verses that follow are a direct reference to the real fear the people felt. The Israelites were shaken, and we know that God has promised to shake heaven and earth again. This is something we have to learn to stand in and God is making it very clear. We have to learn to stand in the fear of the Lord when it manifests. In verse 5 Moses told them, *“I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the Word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and you did not go up the mountain.”* Then God spoke and the mountain started to shake with evidence of fire and the people started to shake. Is it going to take time and growth for us to get ready to stand in this kind of fear? I suspect it will! I suspect we are going to have to experience it. And probably in the same measure that Israel did right here. There is a preparation that goes with experiences like this. We have to get our mind ready, we have to get our heart ready and we have to get our spirit ready. We must be secure in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. It is important to have clean hands. It is crucial to have a pure heart, and it is certainly vital to know that we are chosen. It is imperative to know that we are holy and that we are blameless. All the Sonship Gifts enable us to stand in the natural, human emotion that comes when the fear of the Lord manifests. We have no choice but to get ready now. As we walk confidently before God, we will not be knocked

completely over with sheer terror but will move forward in obedience and reverential respect! To make a Kingdom difference, being secure and pure in Jesus is a necessity!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture: 1 Samuel 7:7-10

How do we prepare to experience the fear of the Lord? Sometimes God takes us into situations where we are completely outnumbered and these moments and events can be fearful. In these situations we learn to cry out to God and expect Him to show up. The precursor is being Word-grounded. This develops by saturating ourselves in Scripture and developing a Sonship relationship with our Father. We have the assurance that God will be our provision. He often shows up by bringing overcoming authority and power. Israel was in this place in 1 Samuel 7. The Israelites were outnumbered by the Philistines and Samuel cried out to God. God thundered on the Philistines and completely overcame them so that Israel could experience the victory. Israel experienced the fear of the Lord to overcome the superior strength and ability of the Philistines. Once they experienced God's intervention, they accepted it as provision. How do we get ready for that? It is a pattern so let's expect it! Israel experienced this all the days of Samuel. Samuel understood it! Do we?

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture: 1 Samuel 21:10-15, Proverbs 1:5-7

The second phase of the fear of the Lord is an anticipation of evil that comes in knowing that God is a Judge. In 1 Samuel 21 we see David fleeing from Saul and fleeing to Achish, the king of Gath. The servants of Achish recognized David and they told the king that this man David was the prospective ruler of Israel and mentioned to him that the Israelites even sang songs about him, declaring he was a mighty man of war. They had heard these words sung, Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten-thousands.' David realized he would be a target. Verse 12 says, *"Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath."* God gave David discernment that the king of Gath would probably try to kill him. The fear of the Lord manifested here as an anointing of 'saving discernment'. Then the wisdom of God came to David to show him how to escape from the king of Gath. This was really quite an interesting manifestation of how the fear of God became David's pathway to salvation and deliverance. The Lord showed him what the king of Gath was going to do and how he was to respond. In 1 Samuel 21:10-15 Achish says, *"Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"* David feigned insanity, which presented him with an opportunity to escape. God gave David anointed intuition and empowering grace. In a manner of speaking David was given the wisdom to 'run through a troop and leap over a wall.' The fear of God will in many cases fall on and manifest in our enemies, but it can also come to us and the accompanying wisdom and supernatural knowledge can show us another avenue of deliverance and escape. This is exactly what happened with David and the anticipation of evil which alerted him so that he could pursue a safe exit. Out of his anointed obedience came David's victorious outcome. God is the Ultimate Master Strategist when it comes to war, and the fear of the Lord is one of His major weapons. This is a beneficial, practical and healthy fear. Proverbs 1:7a says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* David's fear of the Lord quite literally brought him a word of knowledge. Verse 5 of that same chapter says, *"A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain to wise counsel."* Anointed intuition was invaluable to King David. Can we expect it to be invaluable to us when the need arises? Yes, we can!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Genesis 31:25-35

In Genesis 31:25-35 Jacob was fleeing from his father-in-law Laban who had taken advantage of him for years. In addition to Jacob covertly sneaking his family and belongings away from Laban, a secondary problem was going on behind the scenes. Rachel had stolen her father's family idols and was hiding them among her belongings. That was a big issue for Laban. He was angry at discovering that his children, grandchildren, livestock and even family idols were all gone. Laban pursued and caught up with Jacob's family group and searched from tent to tent for his idols. Rachel had hidden them under her saddle and then she sat on the saddle. When it was her turn to be searched, she pleaded her monthly female condition and excused herself from standing. She escaped exposure. In this interaction we have another example

of how the fear of the Lord gave wisdom in order to escape what could have been a death penalty. Certainly, Rachel was in the wrong and yet her wrongdoing was not as severe as the lying, stealing and manipulative injustice that went on for years as Laban habitually took advantage of Jacob and his family. Rachel was the mother of Joseph and eventually Benjamin. God used her deception to save exposure. God honored Jacob's covenant, blessed them and delivered them.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture: Joshua 2:3-14

Joshua sent spies out to Jericho and they ended up in the house of Rahab. When the leader of the city was told that spies had entered the city, he sent his messengers to Rahab. To expose them would have been a death sentence for the spies and probably for Rahab too. Instead, Rahab concealed the spies. After the messengers left she instructed the Israelites in the strategy they would need to save themselves. The fear of the Lord had manifested in Rahab. She acted on her redemptive fear and eventually saved herself and her family. The fear of the Lord manifested in Rahab in the anticipation of devastation resulting in her saving action toward the spies. The fear of the Lord saved both the spies and Rahab. How wonderful it is to note that the fear of the Lord in Rahab opened the door to salvation to her extended family as well. Joshua 2:10-15 says, *"For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.' So the men answered her, 'Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the Lord has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.' Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall."* Rahab acted with wisdom due to the fear of God that had come on her city as a result of the report of the Israelites' military exploits in Egypt. She told the spies that the fear of the Israelites had fallen on the inhabitants of the city. Their hearts had melted. She said, *"Our hearts melted neither remained there any more courage in anyone because of you. For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."* The fear of God and the anticipation of devastation changed the course of her life. Her healthy fear brought her into obedience, acceptance and worship of the God of Israel. We can look forward to doing exploits that will release the fear of God and give us the same results in the end-time harvest. It is God's plan and He outlines it. It unfolds in Scripture! Walking blameless and treating other people as blameless is a key to birthing the fear of the Lord!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-6, Ephesians 6:2-3

In Leviticus 19:1-3 the Israelites through Moses are told, *"Honor your father and mother and keep my Sabbaths that it may be well with you!"* The principle of giving appropriate honor releases power. Obedience to this command brought the fear of the Lord. This actually is a command that comes with a promise, *"...that it may be well with us and that we may live long on the earth."* Honoring our parents has a great reward! The real foundation is in God's relationship with Israel and what He did to the Egyptians. This should inspire us to a heightened awareness that we cannot neglect obedience and play games with God. And that obedience is a healthy part of this growth process. This begins the third category of the fear of the God which is the birthing of a holy reverence and respect for the King of Kings. The fear of the Lord has a very strong third purpose that we often see in Scripture. That is respect where we revere, obey, and honor God as the Ultimate Father. This is a healthy awe that is very close to other kinds of fear but distinctly different. Being awed by His glory and majesty is way beyond any earthly awe. It leads us to worship.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture: Leviticus 25:17-22

In Leviticus 25:17-22 we are told, *"Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God. So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety. And if you say, 'What*

shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?’ Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years. And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.” God commanded the Israelites that they were to fear Him and treat each other with kindness. They were to extend blessing and as they did, God promised that He would stand up in their midst and be their God. As they were faithful doers of His Word, they had the promise that He would bless, protect, honor, heal and deliver them. It was a very straightforward process. They were learning obedience to the King and reverence and respect for the Him, and God was promising to bless them as a result.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Scripture: Psalm 112

Psalm 112 promises a tenfold blessing for developing the fear of God. It starts out by saying, *“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord Who delights greatly in His commandments.”* This passage promises that the God-fearing man will be blessed. In verse 2 we discover that the promise of blessing extends to his descendants as well. Verse 3 goes on to promise that divine provision will be in his house and verse 4 declares that Light will arise when there is darkness all around. Verse 5 says that this devout man will rise up and lend. God’s generosity to him will empower him toward sharing. Verse 6 declares he will not be shaken and verse 7, that he will not be afraid. He will stand in the fear of God. Verse 8 says the Lord will establish him and verse 9, that he will see his desire upon his enemy. Verse 10 declares he will see God’s favor upon his life in blessing. It is amazing how this process of fearing the Lord brings the blessing of the Lord. As we sow blamelessness into each other, we begin to experience the multidimensional fear of God and what it brings us into and the many blessings that accompany it.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Psalm 86:11-17

In Psalm 86:11-13 we read about David crying out to God in the Spirit. We should follow David in this prayer. When we do, we are crying out for God to teach us His ways and unite our heart to fear His name. That leads us into a progression of praise. We will glorify His name! It opens the door to His mercy and His deliverance. The proud rise up against us, throngs of violent people may even seek our life but God is full of compassion and gracious. He is long-suffering and abundant in mercy and He turns to us and the needed mercy is poured out upon us to save us. So He shows us a sign in order that our enemies and those who hate us see and are ashamed, because God has helped us. It is a pattern of deliverance and it comes through the fear of God.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:1-2

Habakkuk 3:1-2 says, *“O Lord, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.”* It is interesting how the fear of the Lord comes in order to revive the work of the Lord. That is what happened to Habakkuk. The fear of God came upon him and he began to cry out for a revival of the work of God and ask that mercy would manifest in his nation and overcome wrath. What a great process! Actually it is one we are living out in America right now. God intervened in mercy and brought us a whole new direction as a nation in terms of leadership. We saw that mercy triumphed over judgment. We saw mercy in the midst of what appeared to be sure wrath.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Job 6:21-30

In Job 6:21-30 we discover Job crying out. Job saw destruction and he knew fear. And then he began to reason with God as God brought him to righteousness where he stood and declared that there was no injustice on his tongue. Job said, *“Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my taste now discern the unsavory.”* This passage teaches us that God grows us through manifestation of His fear. He grows us into the people He has called us to be. We learn reverence and respect for Him in that process. There is a way to learn proper God-fearing living and God knows how to get us there. The

trials of life present opportunities to trust God for health, restoration, provision and wisdom. God is an ever present help in times of trouble!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture: Leviticus 19:15-19

In this passage we learn the ways of God and we know them because there is a fear of God that comes with them. It says, *"You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you."* We know the penalty for disobedience and God makes it clear. If we are going to walk with Him and it is going to be well with us, we must decide to choose His ways. The fear of the Lord helps teach us the ways of God. It is the beginning of wisdom.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Leviticus 25:17-19, 21

In Leviticus 25:17-19 God gives strong promises for abundance and for safety. These promises come from a foundation of walking faithfully in the fear of God. This chapter in Leviticus explains the promise of a seventh year of rest where God will send enough in the harvest to carry through a whole year of not sowing and the next sowing season until we reap a harvest in the eighth year. In verse 21 it says, *"Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years."* What a strong word! It is an amazing promise and it all starts in the fear of God. As we lay hold of God's promises, we must always be aware of our part. Many believers may feel disappointed at their perception of unfulfilled promises. If we are in that place, we need to meditate on those promises and then ask ourselves if we are fully aware and living in our part of those promises. I trust we are catching that. This has to be birthed in every generation. Walking faithfully and obediently in God's ways is our part!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture: 2 Kings 17:34-39, James 4:17

2 Kings 17:34-39 say, *"To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: 'You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.'" God was pointing out to the people that they were continuing to practice the former rituals yet did not fear the Lord. In this passage Israel had formerly learned the fear of the Lord but had walked away from it. How many times did the Israelites walk away in rebellion and sin? It happened more than we can count. Has it happened in our nation? Yes, it has happened more than we can count! Now it is time to return to our God. It is time for a restoration of the fear of the Lord, first in the church and then in the nation. We have come to that season. God is sowing the seed for it and we need to say yes. We need to say yes and amen. It means taking action in our own personal walk with the Lord in developing and keeping a heart full of deep awe and reverence.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Deuteronomy 17:14-20

In this account we read God's instructions concerning the law of the administration of the leader. Leadership has a very special challenge concerning the fear of the Lord. The Word here says, *"When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel."* How do we learn to fear God? Here we discover that it is by reading, studying and embracing His Word. Growth comes by planting His Word. Maturity comes by taking the nine Sonship Gifts, agreeing with them in our heart, continually speaking them and declaring them over our lives. Being intentional and deliberate concerning the Word will build the fear of God. The fear of God preserves us. The fear of God keeps us. And the fear of God when it comes out of us will turn other people to the Lord. If we start sowing blamelessness in each other and we start treating each other as blameless, God says the fear of the Lord will grow and manifest in our lives. Will we do it?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-22

In Exodus 1:15-22 it says, *"Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, 'When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.' But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?' And the midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.' Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.'" God's provision in behalf of His God-fearing people is seen here. God supernaturally provided for the midwives who disobeyed Pharaoh. What a simple yet profound truth! Here we have the story of the Israelite midwives during the Egyptian captivity. These women had been given a command. Pharaoh demanded that when they attended a birthing they were to kill all newborn males. They would not do it. Verse 21 tells us exactly why they defied the leader of the land. Their resistance to Pharaoh was born out of their fear of God. What an amazing account of obedience, courage and strength. If we choose to fear God, we can confidently trust that He will provide for us, even under governmental threat!*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:11-13

In Deuteronomy 31:11-13 we are told, *"...when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."* Why do we study the Word? We study the Word because God's truth releases light, wisdom, strength and the fear of God in our lives. The Word does that and so much more!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:18-21

Deuteronomy 10:18-21 says, *“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen.”* Isn't it amazing that how we treat people impacts the fear of God? If we treat each other blameless, we are developing the fear of God. This powerful truth is spelled in Deuteronomy 10. I think God repeats this principle in Scripture in order to emphasize how important it really is!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Deuteronomy 25:17-18

Deuteronomy 25:17-18 says, *“Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt. How he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.”* God wants us to take note of what He did to Amalek. God said He would blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven and He utterly killed that nation. We have a choice. We can treat people blameless. We can sow the fear of God into them and it will grow and the impact of that will cause growth down on the inside of us. That is the promise. Every seed of God's Word that we plant will bring a harvest. It cannot return void. The crop will continue to increase.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture: 2 Kings 17:32-36, Acts 17:28

2 Kings 17:32-36 says, *“So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods— according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: ‘You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.’”* Participating in the idolatry of foreigners brought Israel low. In Acts 17:28 Paul said, *“In him we live and move and have our being...”* And they had to return to Him. That is the foundation for our worship. How we act, how we walk, how we live will impact how much of the fear of God develops on the inside of us. The less time we spend in the Word, the less it will influence our lives. Not attending to it and making it a priority will weaken our relationship with God. The more we neglect the truth of Who God is and what He has given us, the more shallow and ineffective our Christian walk becomes. That is very clear over and over again in Scripture. It is time to sow blamelessness in each other and see the fear of the Lord restored to the church!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas!

Scripture: Deuteronomy 14:22-23

We have been learning that the reverential fear of God is a quality that has many different layers. Kindness to strangers, worship, walking with God. This passage says, *“You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.”* What a statement! This statement tells us something about God that most of us may not have realized. The covenant of the tithe gives us access to the fear of God. When we tithe we have a covenant that not only promises provision but it also promises judgment on the enemy. The guarantee is that if you and I walk in that covenant, God will show us His judgment and the fear of the Lord will abide with us. Tithing is an open door to sowing the seed that comes back to us as the fear of the Lord. It is one more seed-producing action that can indeed yield powerful

results. Our obedience and faithfulness will always produce blessings. What a gift it is to sow into the fear of the Lord, a gift that comes with multiple blessings both for us and for others. The perfect Christmas gift!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Scripture: Joshua 22:10-34

In this passage we read an account of the children of Reuben, the children of Gad and the children of the half tribe of Manasseh. The people in these combined tribes built an altar on their side of the Jordan and it was a great, impressive altar. The other tribes mistakenly assumed they were building it in rebellion and they were going to sacrifice on it. But that was not their intent. The other tribes vehemently accused them and reminded them of Achan and the fact that he did not die a natural death. In verses 23-25 we have the true explanation and the whole core of the issue around the fear of the Lord. These verses say, *"If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the Lord, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the Lord Himself require an account. But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, 'What have you to do with the Lord God of Israel? For the Lord has made the Jordan a border between you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the Lord.'" So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the Lord."* In a manner of speaking, this altar was an altar of remembrance. The tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh wanted their succeeding generations to have a visual reminder that all Israelite descendants would know of a certainty that their tribes had the same right to inheritance as their brothers. Wow! The whole purpose was to maintain the fear of the Lord in future generations. These two and a half tribes were not willing to sacrifice their future inheritance because of geography. They wanted to make the point that they were included as God's people, so they built an altar not to offer sacrifices but as a remembrance of their Sonship relationship to the Living God. Once these tribes explained their purpose, peace returned among the nation. These two and a half tribes were utterly committed to the God of Israel.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Scripture: Exodus 14: 29-31

Exodus 14:29-31 state, *"But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses."* What we read in this passage is how the fear of the Lord inspired righteous behavior. God's deeds cause fear. They make people shape up and snap to attention and start walking right. That is exactly why God is bringing the terror of the Lord in the last days. It is precisely in order that through terror He may persuade men of Who He is for the purpose of bringing salvation to open hearts. That is where we are headed! How incredible is it that by sowing blamelessness, this is what we may reap! It is worth it! There is no doubt about it. The anointing that saves cities and nations is available for those who walk in wisdom and obedience.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Scripture: Joshua 4:23-24

Joshua 4:23-24 says, *"...for the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."* God did that! He dried up a safe pathway through the Red Sea and the people walked through on dry ground so that through this miraculous event they would fear the Lord forever. Is God getting ready to do some divine deeds so that people will fear Him forever? The victory is waiting and our response to God and to how we treat each other will release God's power in us and on us. It's time to sign up. God has been doing this for a while. He's on it. He is after our hearts and our active participation in the process of 'growing up in Him in all things.'

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Scripture: Isaiah 59:18-19

Isaiah 59:18-19 says, “According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” This is a promise that the earth is going to be filled with the glory of the Lord and the fear of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. The knowledge of the fear of the Lord is on the horizon. Are we going to cooperate? God is saying, ‘It is My purpose in the last days and I am going to do it through you!’ It is time we committed to sowing the seed of the Sonship Gifts into our lives. The seed of blamelessness cannot be neglected because it will bring us the confidence to demonstrate God’s glory.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Scripture: Nehemiah 6:9-14

Nehemiah 6:9 says, “For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, ‘Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.’ Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” Verse 14 goes on to say, “My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.” This account describes adversaries who were specifically sent by demons to make God’s servants fearful and cause them to falter and let go of the purposes of God. We need to recognize our enemies and ask God for judgment. We need to have supernatural persistence and determination and say, ‘We refuse to back off and we refuse to quit what God has called us to do. That will not work here!’

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

Scripture: Ephesians 1:17-19, Acts 23:1

The nine Sonship Gifts work to eradicate blame, shame and guilt, thus offering a pathway to freedom from the harassment of the enemy, the accuser of the brethren. Aligning with truth and discarding negative messages usher us into the blessing of a clear conscience before God. Three times a former serial killer declared he had lived in ‘all good conscience before God.’ That serial killer was the Apostle Paul. The only way that Paul could make this statement was through agreeing with the cleansing, redeeming power of the blood of Christ. A clear conscience enables us to develop the same quality of relationship with the Father God that Christ had, and impart the exceeding greatness of His power in our assignment. We must keep in mind that this is a process. We need the eyes of our understanding enlightened in order to know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of our inheritance. This will lead to the greatness of God’ power manifested in us. A church without spot, wrinkle or blemish is emerging for an end-time harvest. For such a season we have come to the Kingdom.

*From blameless to fearless
God sculpts us to be,
Strong, mighty warriors
Who serve faithfully!*

ITINERARY

12/7-12/8

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